

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (previously presented) An isolated strain of Hepatitis B virus designated Human Hepatitis B Virus Surface Antigen-'S'-145 Singapore Strain (Glycine to Arginine) and deposited under Accession Nos. P97121504, P97121505 and P97121506 with the European Collection of Cell Culture on 15th December 1997.

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid comprising nucleotides 155 through 835 of the nucleic acid sequence designated SEQ. I.D. No. 1.

Claim 4 (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid, comprising nucleotides 155 through 835 of SEQ ID NO:1, but with "AGA" in positions 587-589.

Claims 5 to 8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence that is the same as amino acid residues 174 through 400 of the amino acid sequence designated SEQ. I.D. No. 3.

Claim 10 (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid which encodes a peptide having the

amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

Claim 11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (previously presented) A vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid of claim 3.

Claim 13 (previously presented) A vector comprising the isolated nucleic acid of claim 4.

Claim 14 (previously presented) The vector of claim 12, wherein the vector comprises viral DNA.

Claims 15 to 18 (cancelled)

Claim 19 (withdrawn) A method of obtaining a polypeptide in purified form which comprises:

- (a) introducing the vector of claim 12 into a suitable host cell;
- (b) culturing the resulting host cell so as to produce the polypeptide;
- (c) recovering the polypeptide produced into step (b); and
- (d) purifying the polypeptide so recovered.

Claim 20 (withdrawn) A method of obtaining a peptide in purified form which comprises:

- (a) introducing the vector of claim 13 into a suitable host cell;
- (b) culturing the resulting host cell so as to produce the polypeptide;

- (c) recovering the polypeptide produced into step (b); and
- (d) purifying the polypeptide so recovered.

Claims 21 to 74 (cancelled)